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### (54) WATER HYACINTH CAROTENE

#### (57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To obtain a water hyacinth carotene useful for the prevention of degenerative diseases including cancers and the prevention of aging, etc., from fresh or dried water hyacinth which is easily available in large quantities by extracting the water hyacinth with a carotene-extractant.

CONSTITUTION: The objective water hyacinth carotene can be produced by extracting fresh or dried water hyacinth with a carotene-extractant such as petroleum ether, benzene or n-hexane. Especially, n-hexane is preferable because of its excellent extracting performance and low toxicity. The objective carotene can be easily produced in large quantities from a raw material which is easily available in large quantities from nature or by cultivation. The process is useful for the effective utilization of hardly disposable water hyacinth.

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